

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have the names of those who attend, and if the House will permit me I will read them. Professor Albert Breton of the Institute for Policy Analysis and the department of political economy at the University of Toronto—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the willingness of the right hon. Prime Minister to give this information today, but in the interests both of the House and of the question period, is this not information that ought to be sought on the order paper from the point of view of saving time? Perhaps the Prime Minister would be willing to table the information in the interests of brevity.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, we would be in full agreement with that if the Prime Minister is agreeable to tabling the names.

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FINANCE

PROPOSAL TO REVIVE ECONOMY BY TAX CUT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of his expressed desire to bring stability and progress to the economy of the country through the steps he is taking, and in view of the fact that since the index of real domestic product has fallen for the fifth month in a row, indicating that this country is one step from, if not actually in, a recession, is the minister and the government considering taking the same kind of practical step which has been recommended to the United States Congress by President Ford, which is to revive the economy of that country by a substantial tax cut?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask the hon. gentleman to read the budget speech brought down on November 18, when he will recall to mind that it was in anticipation of the slow growth that is now becoming more visible as a result of the fall in our exports to the United States, Japan and the British market owing to the slack economies in those countries, and because of the falling off in housing, that the stimulus for the next fiscal year was increased to a net cash deficit of \$3 billion. The hon. gentleman should also recall the posture taken by the President of the United States in October and the posture that is now taken by the President. Without accepting and having finally analysed the full implications of his recent message to congress in the state of the union message, the tax cuts that he is now recommending to the American people and to Congress, as against the surtax that he recommended in October, duplicate the tax cuts, taking into account the relative size of our economy, that we proposed to the House some months ago.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is because I have read and re-read the budget that I asked the question today. Obviously, there is nothing in that budget that is going to revive the economy to the extent necessary. I ask the minister again whether he would consider getting his head out of the sand, as President

Oral Questions

Ford has been willing to do, and realize that we are facing a steadily deteriorating situation which requires imaginative measures to combat.

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[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Recently the minister received a letter from Frank Manoni, the business manager of the Labour's International Union of North America in which workers complain that they are not paid \$2.30 an hour, that is the minimum wage, or a weekly gross salary of \$92. Does the minister intend, since the cost of living in the Ottawa area is much higher than in Quebec or elsewhere in Canada, to look into the legitimate demands of those people working for the Labour's International Union of North America?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government to review the current minimum wage with a view to increasing it.

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HOUSING

NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS—SUGGESTED NEED FOR INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs in charge of housing. In view of the fact that the neighbourhood improvement program and the supplemental residential rehabilitation program are not producing the results intended, would the minister indicate whether he will give a more direct thrust to these programs, in consultation with the various provinces? Have any problems come to his attention with regard to cost-sharing with the poorer provinces?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the program has been slower than we would have wished, but I suggest that it is producing the results intended. All provinces have now signed agreements. However, it is a rather long process and there are many complicated problems to deal with, which is why the government is dealing with them. Now the provinces are onside we are expecting things to move more quickly in 1975. I am meeting with the housing ministers from all provinces next Thursday, and this question will be one of our agenda items.